



Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF VENTURA
Hall of Justice
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Michael D. Planet
Executive Officer/Clerk
and Jury Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR NEW SUPERIOR COURT PRESIDING AND ASSISTANT PRESIDING JUDGES TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY

The Ventura Superior Court will be holding a formal swearing in ceremony for the court's new Presiding Judge Colleen Toy White and Assistant Presiding Judge Kevin J. McGee tomorrow, January 17, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. in Courtroom 22 of the Hall of Justice in Ventura. The oath will be administered by Presiding Justice Arthur Gilbert, Second Appellate District, Division Six, of the California Court of Appeal. Special recognition will also be given to outgoing Presiding Judge John R. Smiley. The event is open to the public.

Judge White and Judge McGee were elected to the positions by the judges of the Ventura Superior Court during the judges' weekly meeting on August 23rd. The new term for both began January 1, 2007 and runs through December 31, 2008.

Judge White has served as a Ventura Superior Court judge for 12 years. She has been the Superior Court Assistant Presiding Judge since January 2005 and is a former Supervising Judge of the Family Law Division.

Judge White was elected to the Superior Court bench in June 1994. She received a special appointment by Governor Wilson in November of that year allowing her to take the bench prior to the start of her term in January 1995.

Judge White has served on numerous state and local committees and task forces. She is the recipient of many awards for outstanding public service, leadership, and contributions to the legal system. She has been an instructor for several Southern California colleges.

Judge White established the court's Dependency Drug Court, which provides early intervention for newborns prenatally exposed to alcohol or drugs while strengthening the ability of families to care for their children. She also established the Pro Per Clinic, which assists litigants representing themselves in the family law courts.

Prior to being elected to the bench, Judge White was a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office for 18 years, 10 of which were in the position of Chief Assistant District Attorney, that agency's second highest position. Judge White is a graduate of the Ventura College of Law.

Judge McGee was elected to the Ventura Superior Court bench in November 1998. He is currently the Supervising Judge of the Criminal Division. Past assignments have included family law, civil, criminal trials and criminal arraignments.

Judge McGee graduated with honors from the Loyola Law School in 1979 (*cum laude*) and Loyola Marymount University in 1976 (*magna cum laude*). He has served on many professional and community organizations.

Prior to his election to the bench, Judge McGee was a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office for 16 years. He served as Chief Assistant District Attorney, that agency's second highest position, from 1994-1998. Prior to joining the District Attorney's Office, he was in private practice for two and a half years working in the insurance defense field.

The Presiding Judge, with the assistance of the Court Executive Officer, is responsible for leading the court, establishing policies, and allocating resources in a manner that promotes equal access to justice, maximizes the use of judicial and other resources, increases efficiency in court operations, and enhances service to the public.

The Assistant Presiding Judge performs duties as assigned by the Presiding Judge, and in the absence of the Presiding Judge, exercises the powers of the Presiding Judge.

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